Message Text

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CHEROKEE, FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: EVENING READING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TUESDAY'S EVENING READING:

1. SOVIET SATELLITE RE-ENTRY. TODAY I BRIEFED SPEAKER O'NEILL AND SENATOR BYRD ON THE DESCENDING NUCLEAR POWERED SOVIET SATELLITE WHICH WE NOW EXPECT TO RE-ENTER THE ATMOSPHERE ABOUT JANUARY 24. I WILL BRIEF BAKER AND RHODES AFTER THEY RETURN TO WASHINGTON LATE TOMORROW. AT THE SUGGESTION OF O'NEILL AND BYRD, I WILL ALSO BRIEF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE TWO INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES, INOUYE AND BOLAND.

AFTER OUR TECHNICAL GROUP REVIEWED THE SOVIET STATEMENT ON THE RE-ENTRY, I TODAY WENT BACK TO DOBRYNIN AND ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO THEIR STATEMENT THAT SECRET

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THE NUCLEAR PLAN IS "EXPLOSIVE-PROOF." IN AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW THE SOVIETS OUT ON THIS SUBJECT, I ALSO ASKED WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SPECIAL PROCEDURES THAT THEY SUGGEST TO COUNTER THE POSSIBLE HAZARDS.

2. 200-MILE ZONE. I MET WITH ED MUSKIE TODAY TO EXPLAIN THE NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS ABOUT SECTION 311

OF THE RECENTLY ENACTED CLEAN WATER ACT WHICH MANY INTERPRET TO EXTEND OUR JURISDICTION TO THE 200-MILE ZONE OFFSHORE. AFTER A SOMEWHAT TENSE BEGINNING, MUSKIE WAS HELPFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE. HE SAID IT WAS NOT HIS INTENTION THAT SECTION 311 EXTEND U.S. JURISDICTION TO THE 200-MILE ZONE, AND HE THOUGHT THE SECTION HAD BEEN CAREFULLY DRAFTED TO AVOID SUCH AN IMPLICATION. AS THE DISCUSSION WENT ON, HE AGREED THERE WAS ROOM FOR DIFFERENCE AS TO THE EFFECT OF SOME OF THE SECTION 311 PROVISIONS

MUSKIE WILL SEND ME A MEMORANDUM EXPLAINING HIS ACTUAL INTENTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMPLEX PROVISIONS OF 311. WE WILL THEN MEET AGAIN TO ASSESS WHETHER ANY LEGISLATIVE CORRECTION IS NECESSARY. HE BELIEVES THAT THE EPA REGULATIONS CALLED FOR BY THE STATUTE SHOULD REFLECT HIS INTENTION TO AVOID A JURISDICTIONAL EXTENSION, AND I BELIEVE HE FEELS THAT NO REGULATIONS SHOULD BE ISSUED UNTIL WE HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS REGARDING SECTION 311.

3. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. I MET THIS MORNING WITH MARTIN ENNALS, THE HEAD OF AMNESTY INTNATIONAL, WHOSE ORGANIZATION IS TRYING TO ADJUST TO THE PROMINENCE -- AND RESPONSIBILITY -- CONFERRED ON IT BY THE AWARD OF THE NOBEL PRIZE. SUDDENLY AMNESTY'S REPORTS AND LETTERS SECRET

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ARE BEING EXTENSIVELY QUOTED AND HEAVILY RELIED UPON BY THE MEDIA AND BY GOVERNMENTS. AMNESTY'S EXPERIENCE CALLS TO MIND THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE IMPORTANT EFFECTS OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY HAS BEEN TO GIVE GREATER IMPORTANCE TO PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

WE DISCUSSED A PROBLEM WHICH HAS BEEN WORRYING ME: THE NEED FOR AN OBJECTIVE, WIDELY-RESPECTED CLEARING HOUSE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. WHEN ASKED WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE THE MAJOR PITFALL WE SHOULD AVOID IN OUR HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS, ENNALS SAID THAT IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS IF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WERE SEEN TO BE IMPERMANENT AND SUBJECT TO BASIC ALTERATION AS A RESULT OF THE EBB AND FLOW OF AMERICAN POLITICS.

4. PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. THE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES (MURPHY) COMMITTEE OPENED TWO DAYS OF HEARINGS ON THE TREATIES, FOCUSSED CHIEFLY ON AN ENDEAVOR TO ESTABLISH THAT THE TREATIES CIRCUMVENT THE HOUSE'S CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE ON THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

AND THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS. FOLLOWING ANTI-TREATY APPEARANCES OF SENATOR ALLEN AND REPRESENTATIVE HANSEN, HERB HANSELL FOR STATE AND JOHN HARMON FOR JUSTICE UNDERWENT SEVERAL HOURS OF HOSTILE QUESTIONING, NONE OF WHICH OPENED UP NEW ISSUES.

SENATOR ALLEN DISCUSSED THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE CONTEMPLATED FOR THE SENATE DEBATE. THIS PRODUCED THE FIRST PUBLIC AIRING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STRATEGY OF THE TREATY OPPONENTS TO FORCE VOTES ON ALL PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BEFORE UNDERSTANDINGS OR OTHER POSSIBLE ACTIONSSHORTOF AMENDMENTS MAY BE CONSIDERED.

5. MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST. AS YOU KNOW, SOME TIME AGO, SECRET

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THE MOROCCANS ASKED US FOR ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE. WE SUBSEQUENTLY WERE INFORMED THAT THE MOROCCANS PLANNED TO USE SOME OF THIS EQUIPMENT AGAINST THE POLISARIO IN THE FORMER SPANISH SAHARA. TO MAKE THIS EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE, GIVEN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF MOROCCAN INTENTIONS, WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY UNDER BOTH THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT AND OUR BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH MOROCCO. BOTH ESSENTIALLY RESTRICT THE USE OF U.S.-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT TO MOROCCAN SELF-DEFENSE. IT MAY BE, HOWEVER, THAT CONGRESS WOULD NOT OBJECT TO OUR NEGOTIATING AN AMENDMENT TO THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT PERMITTING THE USE OF OUR EQUIPMENT IN THE SAHARA. THE HILL WOULD BE AGREEING, IN EFFECT, THAT SUCH USE WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT. WE ARE HOLDING IN ABEYANCE OUR RESPONSE TO THE MOROCCANS WHILE WE CONSULT WITH THE CONGRESS ON THIS MATTER.

6. ASSISTANCE TO U.S. BUSINESS. AT MONDAY'S CABINET MEETING YOU SAID YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SEND A MESSAGE TO OUR AMBASSADORS STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSISTING U.S. BUSINESS. I AM ATTACHING A DRAFT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION, WHICH WE WILL SEND OUT TELEGRAPHICALLY IF YOU APPROVE.

ATTACHMENT: DRAFT LETTER TO AMBASSADORS-

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

I AM WRITING TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE SUPPORT THAT YOU AND YOUR EMBASSY PROVIDE TO THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS ONE OF YOUR MOST IMPORTANT MISSIONS. A RECENT MEETING WITH PROMINENT BUSINESS LEADERS CONCERNED WITH OUR EXPORT PERFORMANCE BROUGHT HOME TO ME THAT THE ASSISTANCE SECRET

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TO BUSINESSMEN ENGAGED IN LEGITIMATE TRADE AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IS A VITAL ELEMENT OF OUR FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY. AS SUCH, IT DESERVES YOUR CONTINUING PERSONAL ATTENTION.

TRADE EXPANSION IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AT THE PRESENT TIME. SALES ABROAD ARE NEEDED TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND RESTRAIN PROTECTIONISM AT HOME, AND TO IMPROVE THE NATION'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. AS MY REPRESENTATIVE, I ASK THAT YOU ENSURE THAT A HIGH PRIORITY IS PLACED ON THE TRADE EXPANSION AND OTHER COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS IN OPERATION AT YOUR EMBASSY.

WE ARE PERFORMING WELL IN THIS FIELD, BUT I BELIEVE THAT, WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN DO EVEN BETTER.

END OF DRAFT LETTER. CHRISTOPHER

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